

Richard E. D'Aquin
Chair

William T. (Ron) Roberts, Jr.
Vice Chair

Roland M. Toups
Secretary

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education



BOARD OF REGENTS

150 Third Street, Suite 129
Baton Rouge, LA 70801-1389
Phone (225) 342-4253
FAX (225) 342-9318

William "Billy" Blake
Scott O. Brame
Reggie Dupré
Frances T. Henry
Robert W. Levy
William A. Oliver
Virgil Robinson, Jr.
Norbert A. Simmons
William Clifford Smith
Pat A. Strong
Artis L. Terrell, Jr.
Steve Johnson
Student Member

March 21, 2002

Contact: Kim Hunter Reed

**REGENTS SEEK TO SUSTAIN EDUCATION ADVANCES BY OFFERING
COMMISSIONER EXTENDED CONTRACT**

The Louisiana Board of Regents today offered an extended contract to Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie, stating that his leadership is vital to "keep postsecondary education moving forward on its current reform agenda."

"Joe Savoie has provided the kind of leadership that has fostered a new vision for our colleges and universities and meaningful collaboration with the K-12 community. When you combine this kind of momentum with the state and national attention we are receiving for our efforts, it is clear that we need to keep this effective leader in place, said Regent Pat Strong.

Savoie has served as Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Louisiana since 1996. He holds a Doctor of Education (Educational Administration) from Columbia University's Teachers College. He received both his Master's of Education (Educational Administration) and a Bachelor of Arts/Education (Social Studies) from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

"I appreciate this vote of confidence from our Board and pledge to continue working to build on the success we have achieved to this point. While we have made great strides in this state, there is much work left to be done," said Savoie.

In discussing the need for the contract during yesterday's Executive Committee meeting, Board members highlighted the significant role the Commissioner has played in reforming the system including restructuring higher education governance, the creation of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, teacher education improvements and the development of the new state *Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education*.

"It is no coincidence that the term of this contract runs through the implementation of the new Master Plan. We want our stakeholders to know that we intend to fully implement this strategic document and we would like Dr. Savoie to remain at the helm to ensure that this plan for postsecondary education does indeed become a Louisiana reality," said Board Chairman, Richard D'Aquin.

(more)

ADD ONE
REGENTS SEEK TO SUSTAIN EDUCATION ADVANCES

“Savoie provides the continuity and promotes the public confidence that this enterprise and this state needs at this important time,” said Regent Frances Henry.

The employment contract for Savoie runs through June 30, 2005. It can be extended beyond that date for up to three additional one-year terms. The contract does not include additional compensation. Instead, it reflects Savoie’s current annual compensation package and performance evaluation requirements.

In other Board action, Regents approved:

- C LSU’s request to construct a co-generation facility on the Baton Rouge campus provided that an appropriate maintenance reserve account (MRA) is established.
- C the establishment of a working committee to develop comprehensive policies regarding third-party financing ventures.
- C new alternative teacher certification programs for campuses throughout the state. These programs are designed to address the state’s teacher shortage by recruiting college graduates into quality, fast-track teacher preparation programs that will prepare them for the classroom. The approved programs include: